

THE LIQUOR SCANDAL.

Some, Light on the State's Great Moral Institution.

Messrs. Scruggs and Gaston Arrested.

From the State, May 8.

As forecasted in the State, the Beckroge trunk dispensary scandal, which has been the all absorbing topic all over South Carolina for a week past, culminated yesterday in the arrest of ex-Clerk Seth W. Scruggs of the State board of control, and ex-Commissioner John T. Gaston, upon the common law charge of official misconduct. Both have given bond for their appearance at the next term of court of sessions in this county, and will be free until the court meets in the summer.

Yesterday every one was still talking about the scandal and the affidavits that had been secured, and wondering what the State authorities were going to do about it.

It was about noon when Mr. L. J. Williams, the member of the State board designated to swear out the warrants, went to Magistrate Smith's office and made the affidavits having the warrants issued.

THE SCRUGGS WARRANT.

The warrant in the case of Mr. Scruggs charges that "on or about the first day of March, 1897, one Seth W. Scruggs did commit official misconduct by taking and carrying away from the contraband room in the State dispensary four boxes of cigars and four cans of peaches and other articles, the property of the State, while engaged in the discharge of his duties as clerk and bookkeeper of the State board of control in said State dispensary, with intent to defraud the State of South Carolina, as fully set forth in the affidavit hereto attached."

MR. WILLIAMS' AFFIDAVIT

The affidavit was made before Magistrate Smith by Mr. L. J. Williams, and is as follows:

Personally appeared before me, L. J. Williams, who, after being duly sworn, says: That he is a member of the State board of control; that Seth W. Scruggs, of the county and State aforesaid, was duly elected clerk of the State board of control on the — day of April, 1896, and at the time entered upon the duties of said office and continued in the discharge of the same until the 7th day of May, 1897, when his successor was duly elected; that during the time he was clerk of the said board, his duties were defined and prescribed by said board, which were to act as bookkeeper of said board, to have the custody and control of the books and all papers in the control of the said board, to keep the minutes of the board and to discharge all other duties appertaining to clerk of the board.

That he is informed by a number of persons, who have made affidavits, and believes that Seth W. Scruggs, while so acting as bookkeeper and clerk of the said board of control, did on or about the first day of March, A. D. 1897, procure a key to a room in the State dispensary in which all liquors and other property seized and forfeited to the State are kept, and which was in the keeping and control of the State commissioner, but under the general control of the board, and with the said key did enter the said room, without the knowledge or consent of the State commissioner and the State board of control, and take therefrom and carry away four boxes of cigars and four cans of peaches, property of the State of South Carolina which had been forfeited to it, of the value of \$4, and did appropriate the same to his own use, with intent thereby to defraud the State and damage the public and in grave violation of his said duties as clerk and bookkeeper.

That he is informed by the persons who made affidavits as aforesaid that the said Seth W. Scruggs, while acting as such bookkeeper and clerk of the board of control as aforesaid, did on divers occasions between the — day of April, 1896, and the 7th day of May, 1897, enter the said contraband room with a key then in his possession other than the one in the possession of the State commissioner, claiming that the said key was one provided for the use of the State board of control, when in fact, so far as he knows, the board had no such key, and had not authorized him to provide such a key for the said board, and that with such false key the said Seth W. Scruggs did open and enter the contraband room aforesaid and did take therefrom one box of cigars and four cans of peaches of the value of \$4, the property of the State of South Carolina, with the intent to defraud the State of South Carolina by appropriating the said articles to his own use, in gross violation of his duties as such clerk and bookkeeper, to the damage of the public and the evil example of all others in like cases offending.

That he is informed by the persons aforesaid that Seth W. Scruggs, while acting as such clerk and bookkeeper and holding said office, between the — day of April, A. D. 1896, and the 8th day of May, 1897, on divers occasions procured a key and entered the said contraband room, which was under the control of the commissioner, subject to the general

control of the State board, and did carry away therefrom cigars and other articles of personal property of the value of \$200, the property of the State of South Carolina, with intent to defraud the State by appropriating them to his own use, and to the damage and injury of the public, and by such acts was guilty of gross official misconduct; that all the acts herein charged were committed in Richland county of the State of South Carolina.

That Charles J. Lynch, M. H. Mobley, C. H. Charles, Robert E. Blakeley, S. W. Vance, W. W. Harris, C. A. Koon, H. E. Watts, L. J. Williams, S. H. Douthett and D. M. Miles are material witnesses to prove said charges.

L. J. WILLIAMS

AGAINST COL. GASTON.

The warrant against Col. Gaston alleges that "on or about the 1st day of March, 1897, one John T. Gaston did commit official misconduct by taking and carrying away from the contraband room in the State dispensary one pair of shoes; part box of cigars and other articles, the property of the State while acting as State commissioner in charge of said room and while in the discharge of the duties of said office, with intent to defraud the State of South Carolina, as fully set forth in the affidavit hereto attached."

THE SPECIFIC CHARGES

This affidavit is also made by Mr. Williams before Magistrate Smith, and alleges:

That John T. Gaston was required by the State board of control to act as State commissioner in the State dispensary between the 25th day of October, A. D. 1896, and the 15th day of April, A. D. 1897, in the place of F. M. Mixson, who had resigned.

That on information and belief he says that during the time he was acting as State commissioner under the authority and direction of the State board of control the said John T. Gaston, who was as such commissioner in charge of the room in the State dispensary in which were placed for safe keeping all the liquors and other personal property seized by the State constables and forfeited to the State, or in process of forfeiture, did on or about the first day of March, A. D. 1897, take and carry away from the said room one pair of shoes and part of a box of cigars, the property of the State of South Carolina, and entrusted to his care and custody, of the value of \$125, with the intent to defraud the State aforesaid and to appropriate the said property to his own use, which was in gross violation of his duty as acting State commissioner to take care of the said articles, which had been entrusted to his keeping by law, to the great damage of the State of South Carolina.

That on information and belief he further says that the said John T. Gaston, while discharging the duties of State commissioner by direction of the State board of control and while in charge of the said contraband room aforesaid did on divers occasions between the 25th day of October, A. D. 1896 and the 15th day of April, A. D. 1897, take from the said room shoes, cigars, coffee and other articles of personal property belonging to the State of South Carolina of the value of \$50, with intent to defraud the State and to appropriate the said articles to his own use, which was in gross violation of his duty as acting State commissioner to take care of the said articles, which had been entrusted to his keeping by law, to the great damage of the State of South Carolina.

That all of these acts were done in Richland county, in the State of South Carolina.

That S. W. Vance, Willie Jones, H. E. Watts, L. J. Williams and C. A. Koon are material witnesses to prove said charges.

L. J. WILLIAMS

BOTH GIVE BOND

It was about 2:30 o'clock when Mr. Gaston walked into the office of the magistrate and surrendered himself, he having been informed by the magistrate's constable that he was wanted. He waived a preliminary, and gave bond for his appearance at the sessions court in the sum of \$400. His bondsmen were Gen. John Gary Watts and Maj. B. B. Evans.

About 4 o'clock the same proceeding was gone through with as to Mr. Scruggs. He came up in response to a similar notice from the constable, Mr. Hartin. His bond was fixed in the same amount. His bondsmen were James G. Payne and W. J. Scruggs.

Attorney General Barber says that the punishment for the offense charged upon conviction is imprisonment and fine in the discretion of the judge, the imprisonment not to exceed seven years. It is not of necessity in the State penitentiary.

Mr. Gaston said yesterday that he had nothing to fear; he had done nothing wrong so far as he knew, and intimated that he did not even think he would employ counsel to defend him.

There has been considerable talk as to what offense these two men should be prosecuted for. Breach of trust, grand larceny, housebreaking in the case of Scruggs and numerous other offenses were looked into, but the attorneys could not find where any of them would lie upon the evidence presented. Attorney General

Barber yesterday said: "You can just say for me to the public, that if there is any other offense for which these parties can be indicted, then this office stands ready to prosecute therefor."

SPECIFIC CHARGES.

T. Larry Gantt Declares He Will Make Them.

There were no new developments in the Beckroge trunk, hoccus pocus key scandal yesterday. Everything seems to have quieted down at this end of the line with the arrest of Messrs. Gaston and Scruggs. Many hereabouts seems to think that the matter will die down now. But there are some other things behind the scenes and they are liable to develop at any time. The other trunk case is being investigated.

And now comes T. Larry Gantt, who promises this week to make specific charges of a sensational character, giving information as to where evidence can be secured and demanding an investigation; Larry avers that he is "loaded to the gun-wales" with information and he wants an investigation from "Hell to Holland."

But read what he says in his latest card to The State:

To the Editor of The State: In your issue of yesterday you seem to think that I will be "prevailed upon" to withhold my demand for an investigation of the dispensary management. If you will closely read the next issue of The Headlight you will find that I have specified my charges and showed just where all the evidence can be secured to conduct the investigation. Did you ever know me to back down or flinch from a task that I had undertaken until it was accomplished.

Now, in demanding a rigid investigation of the dispensary management I have no feeling in the matter whatever, but am solely prompted by a desire to purify a most important department of our State government from even the suspicion of corruption. There is not a man connected with the State dispensary but has treated me with every courtesy, and I have no known cause for grievance against any of these officials. And you will also, Mr. Editor, do me, I think, the fairness to confess that this demand for an investigation is no new found idea brought about by the publication of the Howell letter, but as the files of The Headlight will show, during the last session of the legislature I wrote columns calling the attention of that body to reports in circulation about the dispensary management, and demanded a rigid investigation. My position has ever been this; I brought the dispensary law to South Carolina, and I intend to expend my every effort and energy to purify the thing from even the taint of suspicion, or tear it up root and branch.

I am now about convinced that the dispensary is entirely too big a thing to place in the hands of five men, with unlimited power; and if the State continues in the liquor business some other means should be devised to run it. Did it ever occur to you that the purchases and receipts of the dispensary (if I am not mistaken) foot up near \$2,000,000 about twice as much as the entire State tax levy? It presents too inviting a field for corruption. I do not charge any man connected with the dispensary with corruption; but I do recite reports that have reached my ears, and then show just where they can be refuted or verified.

My only connection with the dispensary has been to work to secure my friends positions—and men whom I believed to be honest and had all ways stood by and assisted me in every legitimate way. I have frequently asked Mr. S. W. Scruggs if everything was kept straight in his department, and he said that it was; and as proof of this I had the reports of that legislative committee, upon which was a Conservative and opponent to the dispensary, and these gentlemen always wound up by complimenting Mr. Scruggs.

Of course, Mr. Editor, it was wrong for Mr. Scruggs to take those cigars and canned goods and divide the same with other employees; but it seems he had premeditated for so doing, and the value of the article was so trifling as to preclude the thought of intentional venality. Mr. Scruggs had the handling of thousands of dollars of the public money each month, for a term of more than two years, and it seems that every cent has been accounted for and his books balance to a hair. This is certainly a strong plea in his favor, and a just and fair-minded public will not judge him too harshly. Why, sir, I have no doubt but if an investigation of any public institution was made it would be found that it is nothing unusual for the heads to appropriate small articles to their own use or present them to their friends.

But one thing sure; the wheels of this dispensary investigation must not be blocked by a can of peaches and a cheap cigar. To stop now would be like a man who had a wagon stolen, and after finding its lynchpin in the road went home satisfied. The matter of rebates and over-charges reported to have been paid for liquor under the Traxler regime are of far greater importance

to the taxpayers of South Carolina than all the seizures made by constables since the dispensary law was enacted.

And I see from Mr. Outz's card that the board raised his salary \$10 per month after he had reported the Beckroge proposition to bribe him. This is the toughest thing I have yet heard. Surely common honesty is not such a rare jewel at the dispensary that its practice must be rewarded out of the people's money.

I also see from the Columbia papers that they now all want agitation in regard to the dispensary stopped. It is now too late. "They may cry peace! peace! but there will be no peace" until the whole business is investigated from Dan to Beersheba, and from Alpha to Omega. The waters have been muddied, and they must not be allowed to settle until thoroughly filtered, and if corrupt methods have ever been or are now practiced, let the people know it. The people are not satisfied with the conduct of the dispensary, and demand a full and free investigation.

And when this investigation is had, not a man connected in any manner whatever with the State government should have aught to do with it. There is no telling who may be caught under the deadfall when it drops, and then it is human nature for men belonging to the same party and administration, and drawing lucrative salaries, to shield one another. My proposition would be to let the majority of that investigation committee be made up of Conservatives and men not favorable to the dispensary, and who will go to the very bottom. Then let the doors be thrown wide open and every word of the testimony taken published to the world. The people will then render the right verdict.

And I would also suggest that ex-Governor Evans unite with me in demanding this investigation. His name has been connected with the dispensary scandals but I believe, when the reported Augean stable is cleared, that John Gary Evans will come forth with clean hands. If I did not think this I would never have supported him for United States senator. And I will give you another bit of unwritten history, Mr. Editor: Mr. Evans never received but \$800 from Rhind, and it is all he will ever get. He was slaughtered by the unfortunate advice of reputed friends, and who made him ignore Mr. John Duncan and keep sealed lips when he should have told the people everything he knew and made a plain and straight-forward statement.

I am a Reformer, because in South Carolina reform means the absolute rule of the white majority. So long as the minority faction repudiated their party nominees and appealed to the negro vote, I stood by my race and my party. We now have in South Carolina direct primaries, where every white voter can repair to the polls and cast his ballot for the candidates of his choice. The minority faction has gone into those primaries in good faith, and it would be wrong here after a draw line.

Up here in Spartanburg our people are working together, and a better and kinder feeling exists than in years. This is just as it should be all over our State. When Reformers appeal to the people to support candidates on old factional lines, now that we have a primary, it is wrong and denying to the minority fair treatment. But I am glad to know that Factional lines are fast being obliterated in the old Palmetto State, and when a man seeks to revive them he is an enemy to the upbuilding of his State and the peace and happiness of the people thereof. The Conservative party constitute a highly respectable and intelligent minority, and they should be given an equal and fair voice in governing their State.

I have written thus at length because I desire to set myself right before the people. If I have erred in anything it was in over zeal for my friends. But I feel that a generous public will not charge this against me. I have never held any office with emoluments attached, ordered to hold one. And, Mr. Editor, I don't come from a family of rogues on either side of the house. I have lived the greater portion of my life in Georgia, and I refer to the leading citizens of any place in that State where I have ever resided to vouch for my integrity and honesty. I am to-day a very poor man, but could have enriched myself had I seen proper to sell my principles and turn what talent God has given me to the accumulation of gain.

In demanding a rigid investigation of the dispensary, I have no desire to cast reflections on any man connected with the trunk, for I have no animosity or feeling in the matter. But I shall each week ring into the ears of the 6,000 subscribers to the Piedmont Headlight the demand "Investigate! Investigate! Investigate!!!" until the whole business has been laid before the public.

T. L. GANTT

Spartanburg, S. C., May 6

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TONIC.

Tariff Bill Reported

Washington, May 4.—The unexpected has happened again. To the surprise of everybody except those in the confidence of the senate finance committee, the tariff bill was reported to the senate to-day. When the committee met this morning Senator Jones showed every evidence of complete satisfaction. The Democrats saw that opposition was useless. After a glance at the 216 pages of the bill a motion to report the bill to the senate at once was adopted by a vote of 6 to 5, Jones voting with the Republicans. What he got for his vote nobody who is authorized to speak can tell. Whether it was the abrogation of the Hawaiian treaty, or whether he voted with the Republicans from preference will remain a part of the unexploited history of the bill. Promptly when the senate opened Senator Aldrich presented the bill, asked that it go on the calendar until May 18 and that 5,000 copies of it be printed for the use of the senate. It was all over in two minutes and the first battle was won without firing a gun. It is confidently predicted that debate on the bill will end before anybody knows it, and that by June 15 it will be in conference between the houses. As reported to the senate it is not the Dingley bill. There have been radical departures in making up the schedules and sweeping reductions in rates all along the line.

Among the important changes, the following may be noted: Change of date when the bill is to take effect from May 1 to July 1, the elimination of the house retroactive clause and the provision relating to reciprocity. For the latter is substituted the following: That whenever any country, dependency or colony shall pay or bestow directly or indirectly, any bounty or grant upon the exportation of any article or merchandise from any country, dependency or colony and such article or merchandise is dutiable under the provisions of this act, then upon importation of any such article or merchandise into the United States, whether the same shall be imported directly from the country of production or otherwise, and whether such article or merchandise is imported in the same condition as when exported from the country of production, or has been changed in condition by re-manufacture or otherwise, there shall be levied and paid in all cases, in addition to the duties otherwise imposed by this act an additional duty equal to the net amount of such bounty or grant, however, the same be paid or bestowed. The net amount of all such bounties or grants shall be, from time to time ascertained, determined and declared by the secretary of the treasury who shall make all needful regulations for the identification of such articles and merchandise and for the assessment and collection of such additional duties.

The house provision in the tariff bill keeping in force the Hawaiian reciprocity treaty is stricken out, the effect being indirectly to abrogate the treaty and imposing the same duty on Hawaiian sugars as is imposed on sugars from other countries.

Bradstreet's Observations.

New York, May 7.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say: Favorable business features this week include the continued decline of water in the flooded districts of the Mississippi River valley, in a portion of which planting has begun; better demand for staples at Baltimore, St. Louis, Omaha, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Sioux Falls, and large sales of iron ore to Western furnaces, and a revival of activity among country merchants in some central Western States. Unfavorable trade features include the further decline of prices for Bessemer pig iron and steel billets, with production of pig iron in excess of consumption and the prospect favorable for blowing out a number of stacks. Cool weather West, has checked the retail demand, and complaints are received from wholesale dealers in shoes, clothing and dry goods.

Low temperature has retarded the growth of cotton and corn in Texas, and in Kentucky, the leaf tobacco crop will be short. The Lake trade outlook is not satisfactory; the movement of building materials is slow; mercantile collections show no improvement and the spring trade in general continues disappointing.

Exports of wheat from both coasts of the United States and Canada this week (flour included as wheat) amount to 1,799,322 bushels, as compared with 1,155,000 bushels last week, 1,882,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 2,805,000 bushels two years ago, 2,815,000 bushels three years ago, and as contrasted with 2,712,000 bushels in the like week of 1893. Exports of Indian corn amount to 3,127,781 bushels this week, compared with 3,657,000 bushels last week, 1,891,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 933,000 bushels two years ago, 730,000 bushels three years ago, and as contrasted with 1,046,000 bushels in the like week of 1893.

The total number of business failures throughout the United States this week does not vary materially from what may be regarded as the average in recent years for a corresponding period, amounting to 228, against 244 last week, 267 in the week a year ago, 224 in the week in 1895, 198 in 1894 and 219 in 1893. There are 39 business failures reported from the Dominion of Canada this week, compared with 31 last week, 38 in the week one year ago, 27 two years ago and 30 in the like week of 1894.

THE MAN IN GRAY.

FRANK L. STANTON.

Here he is in a wreck of gray,
With the brazen belt of the "C. S. A."
Meth, do you know him?
Far away
Where battle blackened the face of day,
And the rapid rivets in crimson fled,
And God's white roses were reeked in red,
His strength he gave and his blood he shed—
Followed fearless where Stonewall led,
Or, galleys wild in the wake of Lee,
In the dashing, mad artillery—
Shelled the ranks of the enemy
For the South that was and the South to be!
Or bore his musket with wounded hands
O'er icy rivers and burning sands
Leveled straight at the hostile bands
That spread like death through the ravaged
lands!

Men, do you know him? Grim and gray,
He speaks to you from the far away!
There he stands on the prison sod—
A statue carved by the hand of God;
And the death he dared and the paths he trod
Plead for him in a voice that seems
Wild and sad with battle-dreams.
And memory's river backward streams
With its strange unrest and crimson gleams!
There he stands like a hero—see!
He bore his rags and his wounds for ye!
He bore the flag of the warring South
With red-scarred hands to the cannon's
mouth—
By heaven! I see as I did that day,
His red wounds gleam through the rags of
gray!

Men of the South, your heroes stand
Statue-like in the new-born land!
Will ye pass them by? Will your lips con-
demn?
The wounds on their brave breasts plead for
them!
Shall the South that they gave their blood to
save
Give them only a nameless grave?
Nay! for the men who faced the fray
Are her's in trust till the Judgment Day!
And God Himself in the far sweet-lands
Will ask their blood of their country's
hands!

Soldier! You in the wreck of gray,
With the brazen belt of the "C. S. A.,"
Take my love and my tears to-day!
Take them—all that I have to give.
But by God's grace, while my heart shall
live,
It still shall keep in its faithful way
The camp-fires lit for the man in gray—
Aye! till the trump sounds far away,
And the silver bugles of heaven play,
And the roll is called at the Judgment Day!

Traxler is Waiting.

Ex-Liquor Commissioner Traxler has been seen in Greenville by a representative of The News, who writes thus: "D. H. Traxler, who was State liquor commissioner under Tillman's administration, was seen by a reporter yesterday in reference to the insinuations made by Editor Gantt. Mr. Traxler declined to be interviewed, saying he preferred to avoid a controversy if possible and that as no specific charges were made against him and that he was not attacked directly and personally, he did not feel called upon to go into print. He said he would watch the developments and might have something to say later. He asked that nothing be said for the present."

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FROM THE WIRES.

May 8.

Senator Call, of Florida, has withdrawn from the race for re-election and Chipley leads.

The schooner Sancy Lass put into Charleston Thursday night loaded with liquor and the captain was arrested when he went ashore.

State Treasurer Collins, of Florida, has been found \$50,000 short in his accounts.

Gov. Atkinson and Judge Turner spent yesterday in Columbia inspecting the penitentiary. To-day they are inspecting the State Farm at Hagood.

May 10.

Laurens Tucker, a white man living in Laurens county went fishing with his wife on Saturday night, leaving their four children locked up in the house. The house was burned and all of the children were cremated.

N. W. Nelson, president of the Metropolitan Bank of Richmond, Va., was found dead in his bath room on Saturday morning. He shut himself in the room and turned on the gas. He was 77 years old and had been in ill health for a long period.

Biggs & Fleming's tobacco prize house in Wilson, N. C., was burned Saturday. Loss on building \$15,000, on tobacco \$70,000.

It is feared in Montana that the Cheyenne Indians are meditating an outbreak.

The German leaders are urging the reichstag to enact retaliatory tariff laws against American goods on account of the Dingley bill.

The steamer Maggie, of the Waccamaw river line, was burned at Conway on Saturday night.

Easy to Take
Easy to Operate

Are features peculiar to Hood's Pills. Small in size, tasteless, efficient, thorough. As one man

Hood's
Pills

say: "You never know you have taken a pill till it is all over." E. C. I. Hood & Co., Proprietors, Lowell, Mass. The only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.